

# DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, Delaware 19901

## Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education  
The Cabinet Room

February 6, 2014  
2:00 P.M.

**Members Present:** Diane Albanese, Joanne Christian, Stephanie DeWitt, Cristy Greaves, Chris Kenton, Rosaria Macera, Byron Murphy, Mary Pinkston, Whitney Price, Stephanie Smith and Jacqueline Wisnauskas

**Members Absent:** Michael Casson, Samtra Devard, David Kohan, Wendy Murray, and JoAnn Reynolds

**Others Present:** Donna Mitchell, PSB Executive Director; Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General; Kimberly Rodriguez, Secretary to PSB; Deb Stevens, DSEA; Lea Wainwright, Teacher of the Year; Jackie Wilson, DALs/U of D

### I. Opening

**Call to Order:** Mr. Kenton, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 2:07 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Ms. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Dewitt to approve the February 6, 2014 Agenda with adjustments to DOE Report. Mrs. Hansen will not be in attendance. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Ms. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Macera to approve the minutes of January 9, 2014. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

### II. Public Comment

➤ None

### III. Executive Director's Report

The Professional Standards Board made a Special Recognition to Lea Wainwright, 2014 Delaware Teacher of the Year. Ms. Wainwright took the opportunity to share her passion and commitment to mentoring novice teachers and helping to create the best opportunity for every student to succeed. The Board Members and Ms. Wainwright discussed the upcoming opportunities and engagements her appointment afforded her.

Ms. Wisnauskas motioned to take a brief recess and seconded by Ms. Price at 2:20 p.m. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

Mr. Kenton called the meeting back into order at 2:30.

#### **IV. DOE Report**

No Report this month.

#### **Ms. Christian, arrived and joined the Board**

#### **V. Discussion**

##### **A. 1510 – Issuance of Initial License (Overview)**

Mr. Kenton advised that the PSB Sub Committees met at a joint meeting with both LCCC and PDAC Committees. Discussions were based on 1510. The discussion focused on examination of general knowledge and what the acceptable alternatives, such as ACT, SAT, GRE, etc. might include.

Ms. Mitchell further advised that part of the challenge is defining examination of general knowledge including in the definition standardized assessment of Reading, Writing and Math; not all the alternatives discussed included each of these separate measures. Discussion included the fact that Praxis I is scheduled to be discontinued by ETS in September 2014. The Core Academic Skills exam as well as Praxis I are currently both available options until May 31, 2014.

Comments were made by a Board member that the California Basic Skills Test is an option; mandated by Oregon and California. It was clarified that Delaware allows this for an alternative option if the test was taken in another state as a licensure requirement.

The sub committees will continue to discuss the amendments to 1510 and anticipate making a recommendation to PSB by the March Board meeting.

##### **B. Examination of General Knowledge Timeline & Exemptions / Alternatives**

Mr. Kenton wanted to know where the Board stands regarding the timeline in 1510.

**Ms. Fontello advised that** the portion of the law changes from SB51 regarding alternatives for student teaching for specialists become effective on July 1, 2014. Mr. Fontello discussed the timeframes for publication of the amendments and the effective date..

##### **C. Content Readiness Examinations**

The Director discussed the Senate Bill 51 pre-licensure requirements regarding a candidate's demonstrating content readiness prior to receiving an initial license. Mr. Kohan is heading the review to evaluate the recommended assessments for each of the science certifications. ETS is discontinuing the exam currently approved for Physical Science certification. An alternative will need to be identified. Ms. Deb Hansen, working with the Gifted and Talented Task Force will present to The Professional Standard Board in March and will share recommendations that impact licensure and certification for those educators. As well she has been working with

the Dance educators in the state to identify an assessment of content knowledge for this group. .

Information is currently being gathered to determine which assessments would be recommended to PSB for Early Childhood teacher and Teacher of Early Childhood Special Education. The stakeholders will review the new regenerated assessment Education of Young Children during March.

Discussion ensued around Special Education certification K-12 and the proposed amended regulation which would further clarify that a special education certification is a secondary certificate for a category of students. Currently a special education certification only indicates that an educator may instruct that specific category of students and does not provide any content certification. It was further explained that a special education certification can only be granted as a subsequent or simultaneous certification to a content certification. It was also discussed that in the amendments in addition to the Examination of Content Knowledge that a course count should also be added as a certification requirement for Special Education teachers.

Ms. Fontello also provided additional clarification regrading Educator Preparation Approval in SB51. The entrance criteria which speaks to passing an assessment that is normed to the college bound student still allows the institute the ability to exclude 10% of the incoming applicants. She noted that even if the test is aligned to the test that PSB adopts, there is an exception that up to 10% of the candidates coming out of the educator preparation programs may be admitted without passing the test and the candidate may not be eligible for licensure unless they pass the assessment.

Mr. Kenton, Chair for the Board requested a 5 minute recess at 3:16 p.m. The meeting was called back into session at 3:21 p.m. by Mr. Kenton.

## **VI. Action Items**

### **A. 1517 – Para Educator Permit (For Final Order)**

The Board Director commented that the document had been sent out for comments. When the documents were returned, there were two comments, one from the Governor's Advisory Council and the other one from the Council for Exceptional Children. Ms. Mitchell reviewed the comments and reviewed the proposed changes in the amended regulation regarding the grammatical or wording issues raised. She also commented that at the State Board Meeting questions were asked about the economic impact of the regulation to the Districts. Ms. Mitchell did some data analysis on the current workforce. Districts and Charter Schools were separated in this analysis to allow for better understanding of implementation. In the districts, there are currently 94% of the para educators who are working with a job code that reflects Title I or instructional paraeducator and 7% that equates to service paraeducator. 7% have no permit listed in Deeds; however this missing data was determined to be a reflection of pending permit applications. 87 % of the paraeducators were permitted as title one or instructional paraeducators and 7 %

that have none. This equals to 94%. When looking at what the districts are doing, the recommendation to the State Board is that the regulation changes are catching up to what the LEAs are already doing.

A motion was made by Ms. Dewitt to approve 1517 Para Educator Permit for Final Order as presented with Exhibit A and seconded by Ms. Price. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.** *The Final Order was signed by the Board.*

**B. Recommendation for Application – UDEL PPP Course of Study**

Mr. Kenton commented that the Recommendation for Application is to be moved forward for approval or disapproval.

The Executive Director commented on the special conditions that were noted on the documents that were e-mailed to each Board member. The version that was submitted includes the feedback that included most of which was special conditions or lumped as special considerations. It was clarified that the application process does not allow for an a new application at this point

Ms. Fontello provided a clarification on the application process in the regulation. It was noted that the documents before the Board had references added in the documents.

The Board Director commented that under section I for recruitment and selection clarification the rubric defining years of effective teaching as criteria, Ms. Wilson was present and would be providing clarification.

Mr. Kenton called Ms. Wilson, Special Guest to clarify the documents.

Ms. Fontello reviewed regulation 1595 and provided clarification on the process. The application approval procedure is that the recommendations and comments from the Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee are submitted to the Standards Board for consideration. The Standards Board decides upon a recommendation as to approval of the program the duration and any special considerations or conditions.

Ms. Wilson made comments regarding the contradiction of the narrative and rubric. When the requirements for the program were developed they were taken directly from the regulations. The master's program at the University of Delaware does not exist anymore. Master's degree program has not existed for 3 years. They had a difficult time competing with online programs. The University wanted it to be a high quality program. The program is still 2 years to develop a principal at the University. They will need to be able to show leadership in the organization and how they facilitate change. The candidates will need to go through an interview process.

Questions from the board asking if they would anyone entering the program would have to leave their present positions.

Ms. Wilson stated that the districts may be able to offer some assistance to anyone attending the programs. The program will run approximately \$8,500.00. The course work would have to be after hours or on the weekends. The locations are in Dover and in Georgetown so they have convenient locations to attend. There is 300 hours of clinical work that will be completed after hours, not during the school hours. One of the internships will be during the year and the other is during the summer. Teachers would go to different districts with a strong principal that would be mentoring. The northern and southern person will be meeting regularly with the mentoring principals. The teachers will be required to go through an exit interview. If the person is not suited to be a principal after the mentoring program, they will be told that this is not a good position for them at the present time.

A motion was made to recommend to the Secretary of Education the Delaware Academy of School Leadership Application for course of study to prepare Assistant Principals and Principals for Delaware Schools for approval as a school principal course of study pursuant to 14 Delaware Administrative Code 1595 certification programs for Leaders and Education by Ms. Greaves and seconded by Ms. Christian. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.**

A clarification was requested by a Board member. Ms. Greaves clarified that her motion included that the recommendation for two cohorts.

#### **VII. PSB Standing Committees**

The Executive Director commented that she will be sending out some information for candidates to serve on the Early Childhood as well as the Science Content Readiness workgroup. Members were asked to send any teacher recommendations in the upcoming week so that invitations could be sent out. .

#### **VIII. Other**

None

#### **IX. Public Comment**

None

#### **X. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Murphy and was seconded by Ms. Smith to adjourn the meeting. **The motion carried by unanimous vote.** The meeting adjourned.